Dedicated to the farm workers', sharecroppers', tenants' and small owners' struggle for union, justice and a better life.

SOUTHERN FARM LEADER

OFFICIAL ORGAN SHARE CROPPERS UNION

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Arkansas Cotton Choppers Challenge Guns & Forced Labor In Huge Strike

FARM UNION ORGANIZER JAILED IN LOUISIANA ON LANDLORD'S DEMAND

John Moore, White Organizer, Now Out On Bail; Storekeeper Charges Libel In Southern Farm Leader Letter; Is Relative of County Judge

Simmesport, La.—John Moore, organizer for the Farmers' Union in Louisiana, was arrested on May 28 on a charge of "criminal libel". John Lackey, a storekeeper in Legonier entered the charge following the publication of a letter in the last issue of Southern Farm Leader calling for a boycott of his store because of his threats against union organizers. The Judge set bond at the unheard of sum of $1000; but this was secured for Moore's release. The date of the trial has not been set.

Mrs. Anne Johnson, who went to Simmesport to investigate the case for the Southern Farm Leader, was told by Sheriff J. J. Jeansonne of Marksville that he would not assume responsibility for Moore's safety. He said, "You know lady, a lot of things can happen at night, like a mob beating him up, and I might not come in time."

Mayor Murphy Lecoure of Simmesport told Mrs. Johnson he had overheard some remarks that sounded like threats. When he was asked about the right of unions to organize he said, "Yes, you have all the right in the world, but what we don't like around here is that if we let whites and niggers organize, things might happen like they are happening in Arkansas. We don't like the word strike and we don't like the word boycott, they are pretty strong words . . ."

When Mrs. Johnson talked with John Lackey he said "I don't like the idea of niggers and whites meeting together. Some of the niggers around here ain't even worth killen. Some of them are too lazy to get their money when the planters want to give it to them." He objected to strikes saying "if some of them are to lazy to work, all right—let them quit. But no one has the right to tell the other fellow to quit working. That ain't fair."

Several white and Negro sharecroppers have offered to sign affidavits stating that Lackey has cheated them and that he is a habitual drunkard. It is the opinion of the people around Legonier that everything in Moore's letter in the paper was correct.

The investigation showed that there was a small group of planters around Simmesport and Legonier who were trying to break up the union by threats and intimidation.

All local unions and all people who believe in the right of unions to organize are requested to write letters of protest to Judge Bordelon of Marksville and Governor Leche of Baton Rouge demanding that the case against John Moore be dismissed and that the right of the farmers to organize be protected.

NO RAIN IN SIGHT AS DROUTH RUINS FARMERS' CROPS

Atlanta, Ga.—Normal trade outlets for three and a half million bales of cotton held by the government may be created by a different method than through crop curtailment programs. The record 50-day drought in the southeast threatens to settle the problem.

Southern congressmen called by Fullmer of South Carolina are attempting to obtain quick federal aid for stricken farmers through a plea to Secretary Wallace. Central Georgia faces complete crop failure with no rain since April 1st and none in sight. Crop damage in Tennessee is estimated at $50,000,000 while W. A. Graham, North Carolina commissioner of agriculture sees no hope for normal crops in that state. Alabama, Maryland and Virginia have also found major losses in all crops.

Farm Relief Bill Is Killed By Congress

By LEM HARRIS
Editor: The Farmers Weekly

In turning down the Frazier-Lemke Bill, Congress serves notice on all farmers that it will take no part in protecting their homes and property from seizure. There is only one answer to this challenge: we must all band closely together for mutual protection. We see tenantry increasing and foreclosures and tax sales are scheduled in every farming country. Congress has failed us at the moment when our need for relief from the debt burden is greater than ever before.

With the defeat of the Farmers' Union-sponsored Frazier-Lemke Bill, so far as this session is concerned, Union members can best make their organization serve the farmers' interests by stopping every sale.

Here is an example: I was visiting a national officer of the Farmers Union in his home, when a farm couple came in to ask advice as to whether to sign an impossible lien on their crop in order to have the right to stay on the farm which her grandfather had homesteaded. 'Don't sign any such thing, and stay right where you are,' the Union officer advised. 'Remember,' he said, 'we can have a picnic on your farm any time it becomes necessary.' The woman said she was hoping against hope that the Frazier-Lemke Bill would pass and then they might squeeze through. Now that hope is blasted, but she has the protection of the Farmers Union of her locality.

(Continued On Page Four)

LANDLORD TERROR AND CONCENTRATION CAMPS DO NOT STOP UNION MEN

Southern Tenant Farmers' Union Members Winning; American Federation of Labor Gives Aid; Peonage Being Investigated

Memphis, Tenn.—The strike of more than 5000 cotton choppers and day laborers in Eastern Arkansas called by the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union on May 18th, was turned into a General Strike of all sharecroppers, tenants and day laborers in a fighting challenge to the brutal terror of the landlords. This is the first time in the history of the south and the United States that a general strike of farmers and farm laborers has been called. Victories are being won as a result of the general strike call.

On June 4th, it was announced that St. Francis County landlords had agreed to pay $1 a day or 10c an hour for day laborers and $2.50 a day for tractor drivers.

In Mississippi County the day laborers won $1 for 10 hours work and $1.25 for 12 hours work, plus transportation to and from the fields.

Cross County planters are now offering $1 a day, a boost of 25c over the former wage scale.

H. L. Mitchell, secretary of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union received the following telegram from William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, "Will request affiliated organiztaions with American Federation of Labor to render members of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union on strike cooperation and assistance."

CALDWELL SAFE AFTER ESCAPE FROM THUGS

Waverly, Ala.—Fab Caldwell, Negro share cropper who disappeared following his report of graft to an AAA investigator, has been found safe.

Caldwell escaped from his home when a gang of thugs came after him. He was not heard from for about 3 weeks.

The Share Croppers Union is demanding that the AAA either guarantee Caldwell safe return to his farm, or that he and his family be compensated for the work done on this years' crop and moved to another county.

LATE NEWS!

Forrest City, Ark.—Clay East, organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union was placed in jail here by Sheriff J. M. Campbell. The sheriff said the plantation owners were "in an angry mood", and that East was in jail for safekeeping.

A gang of murderers headed by J. D. Peachers, City Marshall of Earle, Arkansas, rode the highways of Cross and Crittenden Counties with machine guns in their cars searching for union organizers.

Thirty-five Negro strikers were arrested on vagrancy charges and held in a concentration camp on Peacher's plantation. Aaron Gilmartin and Dr. Sherwood Eddy investigated and found the concentration camp and reported it to Attorney General Cummings. Dr. Eddy said, "I have today witnessed the most flagrant violation of the Federal Peonage Act by the killer, J. D. Peacher, in the lawless county of Crittenden, near Earle, Arkansas. I interviewed 13 Negro prisoners in the stockage unlawfully arrested, torn from their homes and imprisoned by Peachers, who threatened us and refused to answer all questions. Our histories should be revised in misleading us that slavery was ever abolished in Arkansas. I do not know if the Federal Government will do anything. If not I shall try to arouse public opinion from coast to coast over the national disgrace of lawless Arkansas."

Aaron Gilmartin was arrested and charged with "disturbing labor" when he called upon Mayor Mitchell of Earle in an effort to secure the release of the imprisoned strikers. Peachers arrested him and struck the union attorney in the face.

(Continued On Page Two)

START DEMAND FOR DROUTH RELIEF

There hasn't been enough rain. All over the south the crops are slow in coming up and thousands of acres of cotton had to be replanted. The farm hands, sharecroppers, tenants and small owners will be faced with starvation very soon because of this drouth.

The newspapers have spread the news of the drouth. Secretay Wallace and the government know what is going on yet they have said nothing about aiding the people who are being affected by the drouth. So far the government has stood by and watched our crops parch in the sun, has watched our doom being written on hard baked soil, and has proposed nothing.

The drouth is not of our making. We who feed and clothe the nation are not going to stand by and starve.

We will need the following: (1) Relief money for food, clothes and shelter for our families; (2) Cancellation of all debts against this years crop; (3) Full protection against mortgage foreclosures; (4) Full protection against seizure of livestock and farm equipment for debts; and (5) Preparation for large loans to sharecroppers, tenants and small owners for seed, feed, and fertilizer for the 1937 crop season.

Every farmer, every union local, every church, every country organization should pass resolutions putting forward these demands and send them to Secretary Wallace and their congressmen in Washington.

Start the campaign now! We will need drouth relief soon!

SHARE CROPPERS UNION IN FIRST CONVENTION WILL PLAN FUTURE WORK

First Meeting To be Historic; Program and Plans of Action Will Affect Whole South; Past Work To Be Discussed

By C. L. JOHNSON,
Secretary-Treasurer, Share Croppers Union

The Executive Committee of the Share Croppers Union decided, in its last meeting, to hold a convention of the Union. This will be our first convention and it bears a great deal of meaning for all Union members and for the poverty-stricken sharecroppers, day laborers, tenants and small farm owners of the whole South.

For five years the Union has been working steady as an underground Union, unable to meet openly because of the brutal lynch terror carried on by the landlords. In spite of that terror we have grown stronger. And the stronger we grow the sooner we will be able to work openly and force the landlords to recognize the Union.

At our convention we will have many things to consider. One of the most important things will be the strengthening of our Union through the development of many more strong local leaders, through better organization of county committees, through a closer connection with the National Office and building a more united leadership for the whole Union.

Just as important will be the adopting of the Union constitution and by-laws and setting regulations for dues payments and membership requirements.

The main topic of the convention will be the action we will plan in order to win many of the demands of the Union. Higher wages for day laborers through strikes, such as Cotton Pickers' strikes; the right to gin and sell cotton for sharecroppers and tenants through mass campaigns in each cotton section where the Union members will take this right; stopping evictions and mortgage foreclosures by demanding extension of time on debts and cancellation of many unjust debts; higher prices for farm products by insisting on at least COST OF PRODUCTION; crop loans and work relief by forcing the government to recognize our needs and setting aside money for loans at low interest rates.

In addition there will be the fight for the right to vote, the fight for more and better schools, the stopping of landlord terror and denial of our constitutional rights will be among other things upon which we plan united action.

We will discuss our work of the the last five years, record the victories we have already won, recognize the lessons we have learned from the struggles we have carried on, and use this rich experience in planning our future work.

We will have the task of making our official paper, Southern Farm Leader, a bigger and better paper and make it the organizer and leader of the struggles of the day laborers, sharecroppers, tenants and small owners all over the South for union, justice and a better life.

Every Union Local should discuss these and other problems, and send a delegate to the convention who will be prepared to present the ideas and decisions of the Union members in his community to the whole convention.

Every local should start immediately to raise funds for their delegates expenses. The place and time of the convention will not be made public for reasons we all know. Each Union local or group of locals planning to send a delegate should write to the National Office at once so plans for carrying the delegates to the convention can be made.

Our first convention will be of great and historic importance. If every Union member and local cooperates, the convention, by adopting its plan of action, will be a bright light on the path to building a land of justice, freedom and plenty.

Lynchers Forced To Pay For Crime

New Orleans, La.—For the first time in the history of the South, a jury of twelve white men handed down a verdict for damages as the result of a Negro's lynching. The jury, after only one hour's deliberation in Federal Judge Borah's court, held that Sheriff Lezin H. Himel of Assumption parish must pay $2500 to Louis and Lilly Moore, parents of Fred Moore, 16-year-old Negro lynched on October 11, 1933.

Moore was accused of assaulting and killing Annie LaRose, 17-year-old white girl. Her step-father later confessed the crime. Moore's parents charged the sheriff with negligence in failing to protect their son while he was in jail at Labadieville. Norman Thibodeaux, chief witness for the prosecution, told how he was dragged from his bed on the night of the lynching, taken to the bridge where Moore's body swung from a girder, pulled up in the air by mob members and finally freed and shot at when told to run.

Oklahoma Is Getting Set For Action

By ODIE L. SWREDEN,
Oklahoma State Secretary, Southern Tenant Farmers' Union

The Oklahoma Southern Tenant Farmers' Union, the representative of the sharecroppers and farm hands, after one years' work has made rapid strides in Oklahoma.

With a strong state set-up the union has set out to bring 75% of the sharecroppers and farm hands in Oklahoma into the union. The goal has been set for 30,000 members by September first.

In the Muskogee area, where spinach and other commercial crops are raised, where laborers are worked long hours with low pay, the union expects to raise the wages and standard of living. Three canneries are in operation to take care of the spinach crop, and 10,000 cans of spinach have been put up already.

2,200 acres will be planted to fall spinach and will be harvested in October and November. For cutting spinach they pay 5c per basket, which must weigh 24 pounds. They charge the laborers for transportation to and from the fields.

The union will put forth an effort to raise all farm wages. Over 1000 people are employed in the Muskogee area in the agricultural fields, canneries and sheds. A very low rate of wages is paid to all workers, black and white.

The Oklahoma Southern Tenant Farmers' Union will be in the field to fight low wages and build up the moral of the field workers. Organizers are wanted.

Arkansas Strike Winning Demands

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martin was released on $150 cash bail.

H. L. Mitchell said it was reliably reported that workers in isolated areas were being driven to the fields at the point of guns and forced to work while riding bosses stand over them with high-powered rifles. A. L. Lancaster, a planter in that region, drove several people to work at the point of a gun. He remarked that he would build "a dam across the lake there with the bodies of dead union men." A state official driving through Eastern Arkansas reported a large group of day laborers were at work on the Blackfish plantation near Widner, Arkansas and that a man stood close by armed with a high-powered rifle.

Will Lee, Memphis Chief of Police, said in court that 700 workers had been turned back at the Mississippi River bridge and 40 trucks were unloaded by pickets. Memphis usually supplies a large number of cotton workers for the Arkansas plantations during the rush season. Four pickets, members of the Workers Alliance of America, were arrested and in police court they were found guilty of "disorderly conduct". Two trucks from the Wilson plantation, largest in Arkansas, returned with only five men. Chief Lee, who defended the arrests, told the Arkansas planters that if the pickets interfered with their attempts to get scabs "to beat them down with clubs and the law would protect them."

J. Marion Futrell, Governor of Arkansas, ordered out 25 National Guardsmen to aid state rangers and local peace officers at the request of County Judge E. A. Rolfe and Sheriff J. M. Campbell of St. Francis County.

The Central Wage Committee of the Southern Tenant Farmers' Union announced that it was prepared to deal with responsible committees of the plantation owners on the following basis:

1. That a fair days wage be paid for day labor.
2. That Fair Contracts between sharecroppers, tenants and owners be signed.
3. That the right of collective bargaining be recognized.
4. That an arbitration board be set up to settle disputes over wages and contracts.
5. That forced labor be abandoned and plantation thugs disarmed.
6. That all workers held in stockades and concentration camps be set free.
7. That the breaking up of meetings be stopped and civil liberty restored in Arkansas.

All workers' and farmers' organizations and all those who believe in human rights and justice are requested to send resolutions and letters to Attorney General Cummings in Washington, D. C. and Governor Futrell in Little Rock, Arkansas demanding that plantation owners, particularly J. D. Peachers, who have violated the Federal Peonage Act be prosecuted and sent to prison and that full civil liberties be restored in Arkansas.

The Southern Tenant Farmers' Union needs money for strike relief and defense work. Everyone is urged to make contributions, and send them to H. L. Mitchell, Executive Secretary, P. O. Box 5215, Memphis, Tennessee.

Farmers Union Protests a Bale Tax In Alabama

Haleyville, Ala.—Delegates at a recent meeting of the Farmers' Union Six County Union in Haleyville voted unanimously to call on the Sharecroppers' Union to join them in defeating to the proposed 50c bale tax on Alabama cotton.

The motion by delegate Martin of Local 567, Winston County, followed a spirited speech by Organizer Swarington of the Winston County Union condemning the proposed tax to meet expenses for administering the Soil Conservation Act in Alabama. Swarington pointed out that this is the policy of the Farm Bureau to saddle more of the New Deal burdens on the backs of the farmers. He also pointed out that when the landlords get their fill of the Soil Conservation money there will be little laft for the actual farmers.

This proposed tax was cooked up by Farm Bureau leaders at Auburn and introduced in the last session of the legislature. It was not passed. The sponsors of the bill expect to catch Alabama farmers napping and sneak this tax bill through the summer session of the legislature.

All farmers, tenants and sharecroppers are asked to write letters to Governor Graves and to their State Senators and Representatives in Montgomery condemning the proposed tax and demanding that they vote it down. The best time for this protest is when the legislature goes into special session this summer at the call of Governor Graves.

Cotton Picking Machine Profits To Aid Labor It Displaces!

By HAROLD COY
Federated Press

For the first time in history, the major proceeds of a great labor-saving invention will be used to aid those whom it displaces and to carry on education for a social order in which machinery will be a blessing instead of a cause of misery and unemployment!

Such is the decision of John and Mack Rust, two Texas-bred brothers who have invented a machine which promises to put an end to the most monotonous, backbreaking and underpaid toil still left in the world—picking by hand every year some 25 million bales of cotton, about half of which grows in the United States.

ORIGINAL PLANS

John Rust, visiting New York, has announced through Federated Press the decision of his brother and himself to divert most of the proceeds of the invention to three purposes: 1. To protect the living standards of cotton farmers remaining on the land. 2. To rehabilitate some of the people displaced by demonstration co-operatives. 3. To encourage worker's education and help prepare the American people for a system of production-for-use. By granting short term leases, rather than outright sales, the inventors will be in a position to influence conditions under which the machine is used.

BOYHOOD DREAM

Ten of the machines will go into practical use in the Arkansas-Mississippi delta this fall. Operating on the principle of a moistened spindle, the cottonpicker is the fulfillment of Rust's boyhood dream on a Texas cotton farm when they swore to conquer the arduous labor of hand picking.

PRODUCING UNEMPLOYMENT

"In our present economic order," state Rust brothers in their statement sent to Federated Press "machines are adversity as longer makes for the welfare of all the people, but tends to increase our insecurity. When these machines begin moving into the cotton fields, they will of necessity steadily crowd the sharecroppers and other hand pickers off the cotton land. Consequently unless some adjustment is made to rehabilitate these people they will simply be added to the ranks of the unemployed.

USE PROFITS FOR SECURITY

"It stands to reason that the cotton picker has immense possibilities as a source of revenue and it is our aim that as much as possible of this revenue should be used in the rehabilitation of displaced workers and for the establishment of co-operative enterprises and such other organizations as tend to raise the economic and moral status of the people as a whole. We are also considering the idea of leasing our machines only to those who will establish a system of fair wages and working conditions for their employees.

"We will encourage the establishment of co-operative enterprises and such other organizations as tend to raise the economic and moral status of the people as a whole. We are also considering the idea of leasing our machines only to those who will establish a system of fair wages and working conditions for their employees.

THE RUST BROTHERS' COTTON PICKING MACHINE IN ACTION

hand for rehabilitating the unemployed and on the other for carrying on education activities with a view of ending unemployment poverty ones and for all.

CO-OPERATIVES

ONLY PART SOLUTION

"Much as we are concerned with the welfare of the people who will be disemployed by the introduction of the cotton picker, it is obvious that we will not be able to rehabilitate all of them from our share of the profits gained by the cotton picker enterprise. We believe there should be a job for every ablebodied person who applies for work, and that there should be universal insurance for the disabled and the aged. But these are social problems which must be dealt with as such by society as a whole.

CO-OPERATIVE COMMONWEALTH

"It seems inevitable that some form of co-operative commonwealth will eventually supplant our decaying capitalistic society, and it is our wish that this transaction may take place with as little confusion and violence as possible. To this end, the Rust brothers will cooperate with all progressive forces toward a new and better society, where new inventions will no longer take the workman's job but will shorten his hours of toil. We now have the means of producing more than enough for all. We Americans have proved ourselves good mechanical engineers. Now let us turn our hands to social science that will give every man, woman and child a real chance to enjoy the bounties of

OUR READERS WRITE

A PLEA FOR JUSTICE

Castleberry, Ala.

Brother Editor:

I am only asking a little information. Please has a farmer the right to take a man's wife's household contents for rent when he or not any of his people rent me a house gave me the use of house free of all charges and then when I get another job he take my wife's things for $20.00 rent after I got to the trouble to pay a truck to move them. Can that be lawfully done. And we are raisen my wife's dead sister boy and he is only 16 years of age. And this farmer hired him to do work around house then puts him plowing for 50c per day and won't pay that. Give him one suit of clothes and took that back and the boy really did actual man labor which I counted up to $21.00 which he got only a pair of 48c overalls. Can he be made to pay the boy.

And me and family worked up to $20 some odd dollars according to my accounts which I have a record of and can furnish which makes him owe us together $42.69 minus $16.35 which I actually owe him and he won't pay or settle no way. Is there any protection for a poor Negro in that shape. And just because I got me a job in Castleberry, Ala., and a house to stay in for a man will pay us, he threated to kill me and my wife and attempted to get his gun or pistol from his car to kill us with in the presence of 3 brothers whom I had hired to move me. Is that lawful in the U. S. A. for a natural born American Negro or is there any protection for me and family or can we get our pay or our things. I payed a man to move them and he would not let me move a thing and won't pay the lad or me either. He calls his self one of the rich kind that keeps rule the law of his county and claim to be one of the big shots of his county. So I am not consulting no one down here as I am only asking advice of you in regards of just what to do or what could be done about that way of treating a poor Negro like me. With 5 in family and cannot hardly make enough to buy bread. I can furnish all writing and information against him that a law firm needs and some of his reputation in his community from good white citizens. Please give me a little aid in this letter.

—G

"FORGOTTEN BULL FARMER"

Brother Editor:

How Roosevelt treats the "forgotten Man" is shown by the case of Mr. T. I. Hopson of Nauvoo, Ala.

Mr. Hopson is a poor farmer, and in spite of all tricks pulled by Mr. L. L. Dood of Lynn, and other landlords, has been able to hang onto his plot of land. Mr. Dodd owns hundreds of acres of land and most of it he got thru mortgage foreclosures.

Last year Mr. Hopson was a "Bull farmer", that is the Resettlement sold him a steer to plow with, and sold him other supplies. The Resettlement Officials wouldn't let Mr. Hopson have any cotton his land, because he was not a cotton farmer. Told him if he wanted to plant any cotton he would have to rent some land from somebody. He didn't plant any cotton.

This Spring early in March the Supervisor, Mr. George M. Dellashaw, of the Resettlement for Winston County, came over from Double Springs and drove Mr. Hopson's steer off. And after him feeding it all his feed this last winter, expecting to make a crop with it this year.

Mr. Dellashaw refused to let Mr. Hopson sign up for the "bull farming" this year, too. Said Mr. Hopson didn't have any cotton acreage to his credit.

The Resettlement is supposed to help poor farmers who can't get credit, and Mr. Hopson has tried both banks in Haleyville, Ala., and failed to get credit, and still after being informed of this, the Resettlement refuses to put Mr. Hopson on their list.

We farmers have got to take our business into our hands, and this calls for powerful farmers' unions with all landlords left out.

—M

STOP THIEF!

Dadeville, Ala.

Brother Editor:

Mr. L. O. Barnett is holding my corn that was not made on his place but was made nine miles above his place. I owe him $4.50 and he charged me $2 for each load I made moving.

I was going to work for him on halves but he tried to make a slave out of me and I moved off. He holds my corn for the moving bill and on the $4.50 I borrowed. He says I can't get my corn until I pay this and he won't pay me for my work. L. O. Barnett says he is going to sell my corn in about two weeks and says that he is going to whip me the next time he sees me.

—G.

A PROTEST LETTER

Hon. Gov. Richard Leche,
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Sir:

It has been brought to our notice of the arrest of a Mr. Moore who is organizing the poor farmers and sharecroppers around Simmesport, La., and who are struggling against the intolerable economic conditions brought about by the ruling classes.

We believe that in a democratic country as ours, that the poor farmers and sharecroppers have an equal right of organization and redress of grievance as all other groups have.

We are unalteralbly against such intimidations and earnestly appeal to you as an Executive of our great state to put a stop to such practices and demand John Moore's early release.

Yours respectfully,
H. E. OTT

Sharecroppers and Tenants! Demand the right to gin and sell your own cotton!
BUILD YOUR UNION

TALLAPOOSA COUNTY NEWS

AAA Investigation demanded by Share Choppers Union Gets Results for Sharecroppers; Landlords Forced To Turn Over AAA Checks

Brother Editor,

Here are some of the facts on the investigation made by the AAA after we protested against the landlords stealing benefit checks from the sharecroppers.

On Charlie Howard's plantation sharecroppers actually got their benefit checks from 1933 up to 1935. They forced him to give them the plow-under for 1933 and the other checks up to 1935 which had been held back all this time. There are five sharecroppers on this plantation.

Mr. Charlie Howard says he wished he knew what busy-body took interest enough in his business to try to attend to it and he said that he had been man enough to tend to it all his life. He said he might as well turn his plantation over to the Negroes and be done with it.

Four Negroes and one white sharecropper received checks on the Birthy Johnson plantation. He had also held up their checks from 1933 up to now. Mr. Birthy Johnson told the investigator that he understood the County Agent was to look aft htreeeshrdlu Agent was to look after the checks. The investigator immediately went to Mr. Farrington's office and demanded a check-up on Birthy Johnson's plantation and only gave him two hours to get the Negro sharecroppers to his office. He did not give them time to fool with them. Johnson immediately got the hands together and turned the checks over to them.

Press Wincley, a Dadeville landlord was forced to give four Negro croppers on his plantation their checks.

Louis Young quickly gave the checks to the Negroes on his place after hearing of the investigation. He told some of his friends on the street that he would be glad when this union was broke up because it wasn't worth a damn to him.

This happened where the union was strong. We have these victories especially in Tallapoosa County.

CAMP HILL TERROR

A big landlord near Camp Hill opened fire with a revolver on a Negro woman living on his plantation because she walked across his field where he had built new terraces. He didn't warn her. The woman's father, who lived on the same place, went to see him about it. The landlord told her father that he did not know that she lived on the plantation and that he thought it was someone else. This shows how the landlords think more of their terraces than they do of the Negro's lives.

REELTOWN CROPPER BEATEN

Mrs. Ella Gamble, a landlord near Reeltown, had Grady Wheeler working on her plantation. When the ground was to hard to plow for lack of rain and couldn't do no more he went to the sawmill to work by the day. He wanted to get a little cash as his landlord refused to furnish him anything.

Mrs. Gamble immediately framed up that he was sassing her. Burke Brown, Buster Gamble and other lynchers raided Grady Wheeler's house and beat him up and told him that if he did not go to work they would come back and kill him. They also said they was going to break up the Negroes from talking so big to them. They said the Negroes was getting to the place where they would not do what they wanted them to do. They said Mrs. Wheeler was getting mighty grand when she says "yes" and "no" to white women. Burke Brown told Grady Wheeler and his wife that "they had better not hear any more from them."

REPOSSESSION OF WEALTH; OLD AGE PENSIONS WILL SOLVE MACHINE AGE PROBLEMS AND GIVE ABUNDANT LIFE

By W. C. Irby
Member National Committee and Secretary, Alabama Farmers' Union

We could let the machines do the work, furnish adequate schools and colleges for our children, employment for young, strong and vigorous manhood and womanhood and retirement, leisure and contentment for the older and feebler members of our nation.

Instead of ruthlessly throwing millions of workers out of employment, with no homes or means of livelihood, it would retire the older and feebler members of society upon monthly pensions sufficient for their comfort, leisure and contentment and enable all workers to rest every fifth or sixth year.

EXTORTIONATE PROFITS

Per cent net profits 1935 over 1934—Armour & Co., 81 per cent; Wilson & Co., 112 per cent; Cudahey & Co., 125 per cent; Swift & Co. and Subsidiaries, 144 per cent.

These excessive, extortionate profits are not confined to the packers. They are only a branch of the greedy, insatiable financial and industrial monster.

The manufacturers of flour, cotton and woolen clothes, shoes, farming implements, in fact, manufacturers of everything we eat, wear, use, buy or sell have reaped an abundant harvest of excessive, extortionate profits.

For years they have been entwining their slimy tendrils about the industrial life of the nation, absorbing more and more profits each year, until they threaten to destroy our civilization.

Since the World War they have been capitalizing their extortionate profits, to evade income tax, (the United States Supreme Court having held, that stock dividends on profits, not subject to income tax, until they are capitalized at more than 1,000 per cent above honest investment cost). They now demand that farmers and wage earners accept or pay prices to give them a profit on honest investment cost of 110 per cent interest compounded at 10 per cent annually.

BONDED DEBTS

The United States Bureau of Census gives the debts of cities, counties, states and nation, at approximately $39,000,000,000 and taxes to pay interest approximately $1,500,000,000 annually at $12.50 per capita.

That is a tax upon the industrious toilers of our nation to pay tribute money to the idle, extravagant, debauched drones of our society.

These enormous profits are taken from the workers on the farms and in the cities, reducing them to poverty and want in a land of plenty.

It is making hundreds of billionaires, million of distressed, poverty stricken people and putting millions in untimely graves. It means slow starvation for millions of people.

What will become of them when old, feeble, worn out and unable to provide even scanty subsistence for themselves?

Why not provide an adequate standard of living, especially for those whose labor has produced so much of the wealth of the nation?

In the days of Human Slavery, the master was obliged to care for his slave when sick and when old and worn out and unable to work, he had to feed, clothe and care for him and bury him when he died.

Ought we not at least to require of the industrial masters enough of their profits to enable the workers to live in comfort, leisure and contentment in their declining years?

In producing it, their lives have been frought with constant, anxious, bitter struggle. Let them enjoy at least a meagre part of it, in their declining years, in comfort, leisure and contentment.

LEGALIZED MEANS OF ROBBERY

All of these profit gathering systems are legalized means of robbing the people and their loot should be restored to the people.

If an ordinary thief, robber or highwayman is caught with stolen property, the law returns them to their rightful owner. Then why should not the government restore to its rightful owners, the people, all the billions of dollars worth of loot obtained by legalized robbery and extortion?

It would open the doors of opportunity to American manhood and womanhood in their youth, while full of faith, strength, energy and ambition, to the beauty and glory of our nation, and save them from lives of anxieties and bitter, relentless struggles, under industrial masters and enable them to carry on their work with joy, gladness and faith in the future.

ONLY SOLUTION OF PROBLEM OF MACHINE AGE

It is the only solution of the problems of the machine age. For it would retire the older, feebler members of society upon monthly pensions, according to the general standard of living, instead of ruthlessly throwing millions of workers out of employment and with no hopes or means of obtaining a livelihood for their families. With the great productive power of machinery, I believe it would be possible to produce enough wealth to enable all workers to rest every fifth or sixth year and at the same time, retire every person at the age of 40 years upon a monthly pension sufficient to supply them an abundance of luxuries, as well as necessities of life.

We could let the machines do the work, and furnish schools and colleges for our children, employment for the young, strong and vigorous, and retirement and comfort for the aged and feeble.

The government conscripts our young men to save this country in time of war. Why should it not conscript the railroads, banks, factories, mines and other industrial resources to save the people from depressions more degrading and destructive to humanity than all wars, famines and pestilences combined?

I believe every citizen 60 years or over could immediately retire upon a pension of $200 a month and that it would not be many years until they could be retired at the age of 40 years on the same basis.

Some say that $200 a month is too much. They look through the eyes of the slave drivers, who believe that the families of labor should be permitted to keep only so much of what they produced as will enable them to live and work and when old and worn out, be turned out to starve.

Government statistics show that the workers, with half the people unemployed, are producing an average wealth of about four thousand ($4,000) dollars to every family of six. Put all the forces of production to work full time and we would produce ten thousand ($10,000) to fifteen thousand ($15,000) dollars or more to the family. Would any one then say $2,400 a year is too much?

Christ said, "The labourer is worthy of his hire." He meant all of his hire—not part of it. The labourer is receiving less than one-fourth of what he produces. He should receive all.

Men and women of America on which side will you take your stand—with the slave drivers and all their injustices, cruelty, and barbarism, or with Christ and Justice, peace, plenty and contentment for humanity?

We hear people ask—"What would Washington, Jefferson or other great founders of our government do, if they lived now?"

They did their duty in leaving us our great heritage of freedom to act for ourselves.

It is not what dead men would do, if alive. What are we, living men and women, going to do about it?

Retail Clerks Union Asks Sears Boycott

Minneapolis, Minn.—In May, Sears Roebuck and Company fired three men because they joined the Retail Clerks Union along with other fellow workers. This is one of the steps Sears has taken to break up the organization. The Union in Minneapolis has called upon all farmers to refuse to order from Sears until the men are reinstated.

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